

## THIS ISSUE

- ▶ TSAC Implements New Loan Inquiry System Page 1
- ▶ Board Meeting Set for Mar. 20 Page 1
- ▶ TSAC Prepares for Single Sign-on for All Products Page 2
- ▶ \$22 Million Target Maximum Adopted Page 2
- ▶ Upcoming Events & Conferences Page 2
- ▶ Middle Tennessee's Outreach Specialist Feels "Right at Home" Page 3
- ▶ Financial Aid Question & Answer Page 3
- ▶ TSAC Gives Back to Those Who Lost Page 4
- ▶ College Goal Sunday Viewed Successful Page 5

## TSAC Implements New Loan Inquiry System

A program has recently been implemented that will replace the GEMS system, which currently provides TSAC schools and lenders with inquiry access to real-time loan information. The Loan Inquiry menu option in E-CLIPS has been enhanced to include the following options: borrower, reference, loan, disbursement, refund, cancellation, DAAR, grants, and scholarships. With the new system, the Loan Inquiry menu will be the only area where real-time information can be

displayed. Schools will be able to view the loans for all borrowers regardless of lender, service provider, and original school.

Lenders and service providers; however, will only be able to view loan information associated with their institution or OE Code. Recent updates on the E-CLIPS news box have announced the implementation and instructions for accessing real-time data.

For more information on these products or to set up an E-CLIPS account, contact the E-CLIPS help desk at 1-800-535-4357.

## Board Meeting Set for Mar. 20

The bi-yearly Tennessee Student Assistance Corporation Board Meeting is scheduled for Thursday Mar. 20 at 1 p.m. in the Parkway Towers building's 18<sup>th</sup> floor conference room. Members of the board will tackle a variety of issues including the selection of officers and committee members as well as the adoption of TSAA Program Parameters for 2008-09.

The discussion items for the meeting will include a brief status report given by TSAC directors, which will update board members on new programs, procedures, and future goals. The updates will include reports from the Grants and Scholarships Division, Loan

Administration, Compliance and Legal Department, and Communications Services. A tentative budget for 2008-09 will also be discussed by members of the Business Affairs Department.

Hard-bound copies of the March Board Meeting agenda will be sent to Board members on Mar. 10 in preparation for the meeting on Mar. 20. A copy of the agenda will also be posted on TSAC's website at [www.CollegePaysTN.com](http://www.CollegePaysTN.com).

All members of the financial aid community are encouraged to attend. For more information contact TSAC by phone at 615-741-1346 or on the web at [www.CollegePaysTN.com](http://www.CollegePaysTN.com).

## UPCOMING EVENTS & CONFERENCES

- ▶ 03/20/08  
TSAC Board of Directors  
Meeting  
Nashville, TN
- ▶ 03/30/08 - 04/02/08  
TASFAA Spring Conference  
Memphis, TN
- ▶ 06/18/08 - 06/20/08  
MASFAA Annual  
Conference  
Biloxi, MS

## TSAC Prepares for Single Sign-on for All Products

A large initiative is underway to integrate E-Clips, E-Grands, and ClipsLink for single sign on status.

There are many users who currently use both E-Clips and E-Grands and are forced to maintain separate user ID's and passwords for each product. The transition to single sign-on will require only one user ID and password to be used to access the complete set of products.

The delivery process of the single sign-on functionality is still in its early stages, but work is already being completed to make the process easier. There is an immediate need to gather inform-

ation from each of the institutions, lenders, and high school users of the programs.

The first step in moving towards single sign-on functionality is to standardize user data. In the near future, the passwords for all users will expire and users will be prompted to enter additional data when attempting to log in. Some of the information that users might be required to provide is their first name, last name, and e-mail address.

This is an exciting time for users because this effort will increase security and streamline the user experience for each of the products.

## \$22 Million Target Maximum Adopted

In a recent meeting, the Senate Education Committee voted to adopt a \$22 million target maximum for all recurring dollar expansions of the Lottery Scholarship Program.

The Committee also formed two subcommittees to address the current bills brought before them. The first subcommittee was formed by the board to study bills relating to recurring lottery revenue. The second was formed primarily to address the bills relating to nonrecurring excess lottery proceeds.

The Senate Education Subcommittees met on Wednesday Feb. 20 to address approximately 50 bills on the calendar pertaining to lottery scholarship programs. The bills that receive a positive

recommendation will be sent to the Senate Education Committee. Currently, the lottery bills have not reached the calendar of the House Committees or Subcommittees.

A brief summary of the significant bills now pending with the General Assembly pertaining to TSAC and the Tennessee post-secondary education student financial aid community is available on TSAC's website at [www.CollegePaysTN.com](http://www.CollegePaysTN.com).

If you wish to examine a particular bill listed on the website, you may enter the General Assembly website at <http://www.legislature.state.tn.us/> and click on the Legislation link. After the site is accessed you must enter the bill number.

## Financial Aid Question & Answer

**Q:** I know, as an institution, we want our students to complete the FAFSA online. I also know a student may call 1-800-4-FED-AID (1-800-433-3243) to request a paper copy. However, if a student is in my office and needs an actual paper FAFSA, where can I find it online?

**A:** To download a PDF version of the 2008-09 FAFSA, visit [http://federalstudentaid.ed.gov/fafsa/fafsa\\_options.html](http://federalstudentaid.ed.gov/fafsa/fafsa_options.html).

## Middle Tennessee's Outreach Specialist Feels "Right at Home"

**M**ost Middle Tennessee students would probably tell you they feel "right at home" discussing their future college plans with James Snider. Not only has he lived in the Nashville area all of his life, he has also spent his entire career in the college scene.

James joined TSAC last August as Middle Tennessee's Outreach Specialist and has already played a vital role in helping many students prepare for college. James began his college experience at Cumberland University as an Admissions Representative and also Director of Admissions before coming to TSAC. Although he is a graduate of Cumberland University, he takes pride in being a sports fan of Vanderbilt University.

On a personal note, James is the oldest of three children with a brother who is 25 and a sister who is 20. He enjoys watching a variety of sports on television, but prefers college athletics overall. He also enjoys relaxing at home reading a book, which he says he does quite often.

Wedding bells are also in the near future for James as he recently became engaged to his

girlfriend Marisa. The wedding will be Apr. 12 in Jamaica.

Although there are many high points to his job, James considers his personal interaction with



schools and students to be on the top of his list. "I think my favorite thing about working at TSAC is working with all of the school counselors around my territory," he said. "I enjoy trying to educate families around the state in order to make a difference in a student's future."

James currently assists 25 post-secondary institutions located in 21 counties in Middle Tennessee.

---

### *Comments from James:*

“ Since I started at TSAC on Aug. 1, everyone has been so friendly to me and I feel like I have become a part of the family. In my new position here, I feel that I can reach out to students and parents and lend a helping hand to educate them for the future. ”



# TSAC Gives Back to Those Who Lost

**I**n the wake of heavy tornado damage demonstrated in Madison Co. and surrounding areas in Tennessee, the Tennessee Student Assistance Corporation has jumped on board to help in every possible way.

Representatives from TSAC met in the days following the tornadoes and agreed to provide assistance to those affected.

Students who were receiving funds from the various grants and scholarships provided by the state will be allowed a personal leave of absence while still retaining their scholarship or grant. Students were previously required to be in school on a continuous basis in order to be eligible for the benefits, but with the waiver students will be able to take the time they need without losing state funding.

Tim Phelps, Associate Executive Director for Grant and Scholarship Programs, discussed the importance of providing students with personal time to recover.

"We understand that it is going to take time for

students to adjust and adapt to a different situation," he said. "Our goal in providing the appeal is to make the transition for students as smooth as possible."

In order for students to receive the waiver, they must complete an appeal form and send it by mail or fax to TSAC. The appeal form can be found on TSAC's website at [www.CollegePaysTN.com](http://www.CollegePaysTN.com). Students will be required to print out the form on the website, complete the necessary information, and return it to TSAC at the following address or fax number:

Tennessee Student Assistance Corporation  
Attn: Grants and Scholarship Department  
Suite 1510 Parkway Towers  
404 James Robertson Parkway  
Nashville, TN 37243-0820  
Fax #: (615) 741-6101

The TSAC staff extends sympathy to all those affected by the devastating storms and tornadoes that have recently occurred.



Crews sift through the debris of a Union University dorm.  
Photo by Morris Abernathy



Gov. Phil Bredesen takes a tour of Union's campus with Pres. David Dockery and Sec. of Homeland Security, Michael Chertoff to examine the tornado's aftermath. Photo by Kyle Kurlick



Members from the Humboldt Volunteer Search Rescue and EMS survey the damage.  
Photo by Justin Veneman



Teams of men braved the dangerous buildings of Ebersold and Duesner to retrieve the personal belongings of the residents of these two buildings.  
Photo by Kristi McMurry

# College Goal Sunday Viewed Successful

**T**he third annual College Goal Sunday event was held Feb. 10 at 33 sites across Tennessee. The event fostered more than 2,100 students and family members with the help of 375 on-site volunteers. Participation in the event increased 47 percent from the previous year due primarily to great weather conditions and marketing efforts by staff members.

The Tennessee Student Assistance Corporation and the Tennessee Higher Education Commission credited the success to the support demonstrated by community members. Darolyn Porter, Compliance Director at TSAC, said the event

efforts of so many volunteers that are too numerous to name."

Each year, there has been a steady increase in the number of people attending the CGS events. To date, nearly 5,000 students and families have been assisted by volunteer financial aid experts. The experts have strived to make the process easier for students completing the necessary application that enables them to receive federal and state financial aid.

Organizers of the CGS event have also been pleased with the technological developments since the program's inception. Currently, all 33 sites across Tennessee are equipped with



would not have been possible without the increased support by members of the community.

"We want to extend a special thanks to the TASFAA community and everyone that partnered with us to make our third annual CGS event a huge success," she said. "As you might imagine, there is a lot of work taking place prior to the events that is invisible to students and families that seek our help in completing the FAFSA. The big payoff continues to be the grateful appreciation demonstrated by students and family members that attend the events. Without a doubt, CGS would not have occurred without the

computer labs that allow students to be guided through the web-based process of completing the FAFSA.

Although representatives have been pleased with the number of host sites across Tennessee, additional sites are needed. Several schools have already volunteered to be new sites for the event next year.

If you are interested in volunteering to be a 2009 CGS site or would like more information, contact Darolyn Porter at [darolyn.porter@state.tn.us](mailto:darolyn.porter@state.tn.us) or Naomi Derryberry at [naomi.derryberry@state.tn.us](mailto:naomi.derryberry@state.tn.us).